

Practice Thanksgiving

One gentleman said to another, “We ought to be thankful during this season of the year.” The other gentleman replied, “I’ll go one step further, I will be thankful.” The first gentleman’s statement focused on what should happen. The second gentleman’s statement focused on what will happen. The first comment is focused on planning for the future while the second comment is focused on just doing it.

I am reminded of the story in the Christians scriptures regarding Jesus’ visit at the home of Martha and Mary. You remember the story about how Martha was busy with her preparations and Mary had chosen to go out and set at the feet of Jesus. Martha complained to Jesus that Mary should be helping her with the preparations. Martha didn’t say it but the implication was that rather than set here at your feet, Mary needs to be helping me get the food ready. The reply from Jesus indicated that Mary had chosen the better course of action and he would not deprive her of it. The simple rebuke to Martha was that her course kept her from sitting at Jesus feet and hearing him. She was more concerned with planning and preparing.

Last week I talked about food and football as activities we look forward to during our Thanksgiving holiday. It may be that in the planning for these and other activities, we spent more time preparing than we do giving thanks. Perhaps we need to stop and allow the simple rebuke to Martha sink into our own thoughts and actions. Do we put more emphasis on planning and preparing or do we stop and just do those things that express thanksgiving. I am not saying that all planning is unimportant but I think we carry it to extremes sometimes and especially when it keeps us from practicing being thankful in the midst of the planning and preparation. It is not just that we ought to be thankful. We should go one step further and really do it.